

ETHNIC AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC ALERT

Democratic National Committee ♦ October 1996

INAUGURAL ISSUE!



Dear Democratic Supporters:

European and Mediterranean Ethnic American communities have historically been one of the Democratic Party's most important constituencies. In this crucial election year, the Democratic Party is once again turning to its historic bedrock of support -- the varied and diverse ethnic American communities -- to help in the reelection of President Clinton, Vice President Gore, and Democrats at all levels.

We are proud to introduce to you the **Office of Ethnic Outreach**, which focuses exclusively on expanding ethnic participation in the Democratic Party process. Under the direction of Tom Albert, the Office has achieved remarkable success in a short period of time. Since its inception in early January 1996, the Office of Ethnic Outreach has established and cultivated relationships with over seventeen different ethnic American communities in fifteen states in the Northeast and Midwest.

The Democratic Party, through the Office of Ethnic Outreach, seeks to substantively engage ethnic Americans in its activities. The Office hosted several events throughout the year as part of a targeted strategy to reach ethnic Americans. In addition, it sponsored several high profile ethnic events at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Your concerns are a priority in today's Democratic Party, and your agenda -- both domestic and foreign -- is at the forefront of our activities. With your hard work and dedication, we hope to win in November - not just for our President and our party, but far more importantly, for our country.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Fowler
National Chair

Christopher J. Dodd
General Chair

"I believe that NATO heads of government should meet in the spring or early summer of next year to take the next decisive steps. This Summit would invite the first group of aspiring NATO members to begin accession talks to bring them into the Alliance. It would announce a major enhancement of the Partnership for Peace.

I call on my fellow NATO heads of government to join with me in this endeavor. Together, we can make this Summit the most historic and forward-looking in the history of our NATO Alliance, furthering our vision of an undivided Europe, and building a bridge of peace and security, democracy and prosperity to the 21st Century."

- President Clinton, September 6, 1996

Chicago '96: "A Celebration of Ethnic America"

On Wednesday, August 28, 1996, the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee (NDECC) and the varied Chicago Ethnic Communities hosted a luncheon in "Celebration of Ethnic America." This multi-ethnic luncheon brought together four hundred respected ethnic community leaders, elected officials and Party officials to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of the ethnic American communities. Former Vice-Presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro moderated the event, which included a keynote address by Peter Knight, General Manager for the Clinton/Gore Re-election Campaign. Honored guests included National Chair Don Fowler, Senator Paul Sarbanes, Representative Marcy Kaptur, and former Presidential nominee Michael Dukakis. The lunch celebrated cultural diversity with Greek, Polish and Irish dancers and singers.

The lunch served to showcase the prominence of ethnic Americans at the Convention and as a tool to motivate the important ethnic communities to support Democrats. By all accounts, the lunch was a wonderful success, and we thank Chicago for hosting us!

Questions? Comments? Call the Office of Ethnic Outreach at the DNC: 202-488-5087

Contact your State Democratic Party Headquarters – GET INVOLVED!!

Now is the time to get involved in the Fall campaigns. Whether you are interested in volunteering a few hours or you are able to make a more substantial commitment, contact your state party headquarters. The State Party is your link to the fall campaigns on the entire Democratic Party ticket.

National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee (NDECC)

In the fall of 1995, several ethnic American leaders representing almost fifteen different ethnic communities, convened in Washington, D.C., to create an advisory committee to the Democratic Party on ethnic issues. The National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee acts as a guide for the DNC and as a liaison to the ethnic American communities. The NDECC has met with the Chair of the DNC, Don Fowler and with high level officials at the White House in an effort to integrate ethnic concerns, policies, and issues into the Democratic Party infrastructure. The NDECC was instrumental in propelling the establishment of the Office of Ethnic Outreach and continues to work closely with us in promoting the agenda of ethnic America. The NDECC'S co-convenors are James Rosapepe, Peter Ujvagi, David Wilhelm, and James Zogby.

State Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee (SDECC)

Following the national model of the NDECC, the Office of Ethnic Outreach is establishing state committees in many of the states in the Northeast and Midwest to work with the state parties. This year, unlike in the past, we seek to enlist the ethnic constituencies early and substantively. These committees will have a direct influence and input into the election plans for many states. They will be responsible for crafting and enhancing the ethnic component in the state election plans to ensure that the ethnic constituencies are serviced adequately.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's tour of Central and Eastern Europe

"To all the people of ... Central Europe, let me say:

We share in your aspirations to join the Western democratic family. We share in your aspirations for economic reform and a free market system. We share in your aspirations to build a society that respects human rights, a free press, and the rule of law.

And just as we stood with the people of [Central Europe] through decades of the Cold War, we stand with you now – and we will help you fulfill your aspirations as you knit the fabric of a prospering, confident, free and open Europe."

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton recently visited the newly democratic countries of Romania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Estonia. Her ten-day tour, undertaken at the request of the President, served both to highlight the significant political, social and economic progress made by the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe and to underscore the continued unwavering support of the United States for this process of reform.

Following her trip, Mrs. Clinton hosted five hundred ethnic American leaders at a briefing and slide presentation on her trip followed by a reception at The White House.

A "Celebration of Ethnic America"

Over 200 ethnic leaders from almost twenty different Central/Eastern European and Mediterranean communities took part in "A Celebration of Ethnic America" on June 14. The day kicked off at the White House with several morning briefings from the President, Vice President, Secretary of Education Richard Riley, and National Security Advisor Anthony Lake.

President Clinton thanked the assembled community leaders for their commitment to their ethnic roots and heritage, recognizing that Ethnic America is bound together by shared values of strengthening families, improving our children's education, and protecting the health care of our parents. He noted that opportunity, responsibility and community represent the enduring values of ethnic Americans from our immigrant parents and grandparents who lived the American Dream and for our children and grandchildren.

DNC chairs Don Fowler and Senator Chris Dodd later hosted a luncheon for the ethnic leaders who had attended the earlier briefing. Chris Dodd's fiery speech energized the group, inspiring them to act on behalf of the Democratic Party. President Clinton's political advisor, George Stephanopoulos, delivered the keynote address, stressing the need for the support of the ethnic communities in re-electing the President and electing a Democratic Congress.

The "Celebration of Ethnic America" was a tremendous success, and we are eager to build on the energy and talents of ethnic America for a big victory in November.

National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee

Co-Convenors

James Rosapepe

Peter Ujvagi

David Wilhelm

James Zogby

National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee

Ishmael Ahmed, Arab American
Wendel Anderson, Swedish American
Bedros Bandazian, Armenian American
Ann Bergren, Czech & Slovak American
Robert B. Blancato, Italian American
Rimas Chesonis, Lithuanian American
Andrew Fedynsky, Ukrainian American
Armando Fontoura, Portuguese American
Bernard Freitag, German American
Tony Haddad, Arab American
Joe Jamison, Irish American
Obrad Kesic, Serbian American
Julian E. Kulas, Ukrainian American
Bruce A. Morrison, Irish American

Brian O'Dwyer, Irish American
Laszlo Papp, Hungarian American
Phillip Piccigallo, Italian American
John Pikarski, Polish American
Marilyn Piurek, Polish American
James Rosapepe, Italian American
Nikki Stephanopoulos, Greek American
Mourad Topalian, Armenian American
Peter Ujvagi, Hungarian American
Christine Warnke, Greek American
David Wilhelm, German American
Tom Wojlawowicz, Polish American
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